

Committee on Foreign Affairs

U.S. House of Representatives

DEMOCRATIC OFFICE

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Deny ISIS Funding & Save Syria's Antiquities

Pass the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act (H.R. 1493)

ISIS Profits from Destroying World History

- ISIS earns tens of millions annually from looting and trafficking antiquities to fund terror.
- A UN Security Council resolution passed in February calls on all nations to help defund ISIS by preventing trade in Syrian antiquities.
- America's allies have already imposed import restrictions on trafficked Syrian and Iraqi artifacts.
- Congress established similar restrictions for Iraqi artifacts in 2004 but has yet to act for Syria, leaving Syrian artifacts open to looting and trafficking by ISIS.



The Aug. 2011 image of Mari, Syria shows no signs of looting.

A Nov. 2014 image shows that after 5 months under ISIS control looters had already dug more than 1,000 pits.

ISIS has embraced antiquities trafficking as a source of revenue, as shown by numerous documents captured in the Abu Sayyaf compound raid, including this image of looted coins.



H.R. 1493

- Imposes import restrictions on illicit Syrian artifacts to undercut looting and trafficking.
- Provides for antiquities to be temporarily protected by U.S. institutions until they can be safely returned to their rightful owners.
- Expresses congressional support for establishing an interagency coordinating committee to better protect historical sites and artifacts at risk worldwide.
- Improves congressional oversight of efforts to save cultural property.

Action Needed Now

- With final House passage, H.R. 1493 will head to the President's desk for signature.